

PATENT**In The Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following new paragraph [0032].

[0032] Extending from the narrowest portion of the angular space 108 across the top of the valve body 112 is a score line 114. Generally, the score line 114 extends at least partially downwardly through the body 112. The score line may have either a V-shaped, U-shaped, or rectangular-shaped cross section, and has a shape and depth through the body sufficient to assist in splitting or tearing the body when the grip tabs 102 are firmly grasped and moved in opposite directions. The score line may extend onto a portion of the valve body across the membrane 116 effectively forming a "notch" or second score line 120 (see FIGS. 7 and 8). This second score line 120 may be placed on the valve body directly opposite the first score line 114. The second score line may extend across the entirety of the opposing. This second score line 120, or notch, may assist in separating or opening the hemostasis valve 100 along its lateral axis by providing a path for tearing, snapping, or otherwise separating the valve body 112.